



[View this email in your browser](#)



November 9, 2023 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / www.mags.school.nz

From the Headmaster

Key Dates

Leave Nothing To Chance



Tēnā koutou, ki te whānau o Mount Albert Grammar School.

As we move into the business end of the school year, there are three major priorities for our students...*exams, exams and exams!*

Senior students are already well into their NCEA and NZ Scholarship Examinations while our Junior School students are scheduled for their own end-of-year examinations next week.

Being tested is a normal part of human life. It is natural for students to feel a degree of apprehension and nerves ahead of sitting their exams. This should be welcomed as it helps to focus us and reinforces the importance carried by these assessments. Developing strategies to manage any anxiety in a positive way is a key part of how we should respond.

The power of having a study plan – and then sticking to it – is one such strategy. Getting lots of sleep, keeping exercise going and eating well will also help to keep us in the best physical shape over the exam period.

The whole family can get behind their sons and daughters during this time. The additional support in the home will be invaluable. It's about investing energy into the process and preparation. If we get that right, then the results will take care of themselves!

For students, in the time ahead, leave nothing to chance. Work hard and you are bound to get the results you deserve.

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

Monday, November 13

Teacher Only Day – Juniors study at home

Tuesday, November 14

Junior Exams start

Monday, November 20

Junior Arts Assembly

Wednesday, November 29

Year 9 Interform Competition

Thursday, November 30

Year 10 Interform Competition

Tuesday, December 5

Junior Prizegivings:
Year 10 (morning)
Year 9 (afternoon)

Sport

Photo Essay

Have a good weekend!

Patrick Drumm
Headmaster



Cricket Boys 1st XI v St Peter's College

Click [here](#)

Fixtures and Results

Click [here](#)

Our Lion Fund programme aims to provide financial support to allow every MAGS student to access the breadth of opportunities we offer at our school.

Donate to the Lion Fund now



Junior Drama takes centre stage



Last week, Year 9 and 10 Drama performed their annual class plays to their friends and family.

Both plays were adapted and written by Miss Hughes and co-directed with the students. Year 9s performed a horror-comedy play called *Shrek: The Remix* – a play based on the

original short story and adapted for the stage. The Year 10s performed their romantic comedy of *Robin Hood*.



Junior Exams start next week



Parents of Juniors should have received an email on Tuesday with information about Junior Exams and end-of-year activities culminating in prizegivings for Year 9 and Year 10 on December 5.

You can see the full letter [here](#)

Next Monday (November 13) is a Teacher Only Day with Juniors studying at home before commencing exams on Tuesday.

You can see the exam timetable and room allocation for Year 9s [here](#) and the exam timetable and room allocation for Year 10s [here](#)

Building connections through the Arts



On Wednesday this week arts project Mixit visited MAGS and facilitated a workshop with our International and English Language students. Mixit brings refugee and migrant young people together to celebrate diversity through creativity using drama, music and performance games and skills to build teamwork, connectivity and friendships. Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan said, "Nearly 50 MAGS students participated, and it was heartening to see the students mixing and mingling and participating in the tasks and games together."

You can learn more about Mixit [here](#)

Duke of Ed Bronze Journey



Last weekend saw 18 students go out to the Karangahake Gorge to complete their Bronze journey with Mr Belson and Miss Murray.

Mr Belson said, "The weather was absolutely perfect as we tramped around, up and through the Gorge and the Karangahake Mountain, enjoying some fantastic views.

"The campsite at Dickey Flat is the perfect place to learn about camping, tramping and cooking with limited facilities – there were a lot of interesting meals being cooked!"

"The students also learned how to navigate, self-manage their group and themselves, and generally be prepared and safe in the outdoors. All the students were enthusiastic, committed and energetic and tackled their respective journeys in a positive manner.

Mr Belson added, "It was a great first introduction to basic bushcraft and tramping skills in preparation for the next level. They now need to ensure they complete the remaining three sections of the award before continuing onto Silver. They were all a credit to the school and made for a great three days.

"My thanks again to Miss Murray for assisting and supporting me on this camp."

Seeking work experience placements



Every year the Careers Department supports a group of Year 12 students into work experience placements as part of the MAGS Gateway Programme. Careers is now planning for its 2024 cohort and is looking for more placements, particularly in the trades – would your businesses or organisation like to be involved? Students are matched with an industry of their interest and commit to one day a week for 10 weeks across Terms 2 or 3.

The placements have included trades, retail, beauty and hospitality – and students are trained in health and safety and employability skills before they start. If you would like to be involved, please contact Karen Caso, our Gateway Coordinator, at karen.caso@mags.school.nz

Order your 2023 Albertian now

Our Finance Department is now taking orders for The Albertian 2023, which will be available by mid-2024.

The yearbook contains a full wrap-up of the year including Academia, Arts, Service and Sports reports and photos as well as formal class photos – and much more!

It can be delivered to Year 13 students, rather than picked up from MAGS, for a small extra cost.

You can order the Albertian [here](#)



The Albertian
2023

Homestay families required

MAGS is still looking for more wonderful families, as we have a large number of International students starting in 2024. This is a great opportunity to learn about a different culture and build lasting friendships.

Our next student intake will be for Term 1 2024. We will have short- and long-term students, staying for between 10 weeks to a full year. Homestay families are our most popular choice of accommodation as our students benefit from living with an English-speaking family and sharing in the New Zealand family experience.

What are the expectations of a host family?

A host family is expected to provide a clean and comfortable bedroom with a bed, a wardrobe (built-in or free-standing) and drawers, linen and towels, a desk and a lamp and three meals a day.

MOUNT ALBERT
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Homestay families required for Mount Albert Grammar School

Kind and caring host families needed for students from a variety of cultures. If you are interested in becoming part of the MAGS international family get in touch.

Email homestay@mags.school.nz for more information

The application process:

The application process involves police vetting for all family members over 18 years. This is followed by a home visit from the school. This helps us to know a little more about your family's interests and lifestyle and enables us to make a well-informed student match.

We pay \$330.00 per week (from 2024) which is paid fortnightly in advance.

If you would like some further information, or to receive the application forms, please email homestay@mags.school.nz

MAGS has your Xmas sorted

Neat Meat is again helping our Sports Department with fundraising for students in need – \$10 from every ham sold goes back to the school.

Pick-up is 11th of December, and you can order [here](#)

And MAGSRow has Christmas cakes and trees for sale, as per below.



Quality Manuka Smoked Christmas Hams

The perfect Gift for you and MAGS



**New Zealand Free Farmed Half Ham, Cooked on the Bone.
Gluten Free and Delicious.**

Each ham weighs approximately 4.25 - 4.75kg

**How it works: \$90 per ham, with \$10 of this going back to
Mount Albert Grammar School. <https://forms.gle/dSvM9vwwSyCCHN8aZ>**

Pick up: Monday 11th December 4-6pm from MAGS.

Get in quick while they last, only 80 hams!



Support MAGS Rowing this Christmas!!

Yummy Xmas Cakes:

BREAD & BUTTER
BREAD THAT'S BETTER

Christmas cakes from Bread & Butter

- Traditional rich, dark Christmas cake with fruit & spices (*cakes 15cm in diameter & weigh approximately 900g*)
 - Will come to you attractively gift-wrapped
 - \$35 each or \$32 when you order five or more
 - Ideal as gifts for family, friends, staff or suppliers
 - To make an order, please email your order through to christasmagsrow@gmail.com
- Cakes will be delivered early December



Real Christmas Trees

Nothing beats the smell of real Christmas trees

- Trees start at \$60
- To order your tree (or trees!), visit the Misa website <https://misachristmastrees.co.nz/> and use the code MAGS20



Sports Update

MAGSROW returns to the water



The Bennett Shield and Eric Verdonk Memorial Regattas held last weekend were the first time our 2023/24 rowing squad got on the water in race conditions.

The regattas provided some amazing racing across all the year groups, who were representing West End Rowing Club in its black and white strip.

Director of Rowing Mr O'Sullivan said, "The new Year 9 rowers had their first race event since beginning the Rowing Academy back in February which was a joy to see. The excitement has been building for weeks and their coaches were delighted that they all had so much fun competing with their friends."

"Overall the team was really happy with the performances displayed by the whole programme over the course of the weekend. There were far too many great results to list but a really exciting situation played out in the final races of Sunday afternoon.



"It is often hard for the rowers to watch racing at regattas due to their commitments around the boatpark alongside preparing for their own races. As we were well prepared with our trailer loading for the return journey, we had the full programme out supporting along the shorefront for the boys and girls U18 8+ races."

Mr O'Sullivan added, "We are delighted to report that MAGS won the Division 1 Eight in both the boys and girls events, alongside the boys Division 2 Eight beating out other Auckland schools like Westlake, Auckland Grammar, St Peter's College and many more.

"We believe that this is the first time any school has done this at the EVMR, which is a pretty amazing achievement for a co-ed programme. The strength and depth of our senior squad is arguably the best we've ever had, coupled alongside our largest Year 9 intake ever.

The opportunity to do something historical this year is immense and really exciting for all involved at MAGSROW."

Junior Girls Tag makes Auckland Champs

The Central/North/West Zone Junior Tag Tournament was held at Moire Park in Massey on Tuesday, with MAGS entering boys and girls teams.

The day consisted of both teams playing six 18-minute games with a small gap between each game. This tested the endurance of all students competing on a warm day.

The boys team started the day in strong fashion, winning 9-0 against Massey High School. Their second game was against a strong Westlake Boys team, with Westlake winning 3-1. To make the top eight quarterfinals, they had to beat Liston College in their last pool game. A dominant performance saw the boys win 8-0.

In the quarterfinal they came up against a strong Rangitoto College team that played with great pace and skill to win. The boys finished the day with a loss to Westlake in the placing semi and then a strong win against Northcote College to finish 7th overall.

The girls had a tight win first-up against Whangaparaoa College 2-1. In their second game, they put on an impressive display against Lynfield College, winning 8-0. This was on the back of playing with some good structure and some brilliant long-range tries.

Their quarterfinal was another close game. The girls held on to beat Westlake Girls Black 3-2. This meant a semi-final against Westlake Girls Red. This was a tight battle with both teams playing high-quality tag. Westlake managed to win 4-2. Their last game of the day was the 3rd/4th playoff against Rangitoto College. This proved to be a close one as well, with the fulltime score being 3-3. Rangitoto were declared the winners as they scored the first try.

With the girls finishing 4th, they qualify for the Auckland Junior Championships to be held in late November.

Assistant Director of Sport Mr Crossan said, "A special thanks goes to Tony Talagi (Boys) and Tutu Tairea (Girls) for their efforts in coaching the teams. Also thanks to Ms Wright, Mr Hipa, Mr Khan and Mr Folomu, who all supported the teams throughout the day."

A Tradition of Excellence

Alberton Ave, Mt Albert, Auckland
09 846 2044 www.mags.school.nz

EXCELLENCE
CONNECTION
& GROWTH

Copyright © 2023 Mount Albert Grammar School. All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)